



STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

BOARD OF PAROLE
HELEN MILLER, CHAIR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 3, 2020 – 12:00pm

Contact: Andrew J. Boettger, Vice Chair, Iowa Board of Parole
(515) 725 - 5750

The Iowa Board of Parole is taking a deliberate and aggressive approach to reviewing the placement of Iowa's offender population in this unique time.

Working in concert with the Iowa Department of Corrections, the Board of Parole is working diligently to review requests for transition out of the prison system for those persons whom the Board deem appropriate to transition. Although that is the work of the Board in times of relative calm, it is all the more so the case in this season.

While the health and safety of inmates and those persons on some type of parole are paramount, the Board cannot forego the equally important consideration of the safety of all Iowans in weighing releases and transitional placements.

A bevy of factors weigh into each review. Each person being considered for release in any fashion must be analyzed based on the totality of the data available to the Board. The Board of Parole gives the input of the Department of Corrections substantial weight when considering release options. However, there is a reason these two government agencies are separate and distinct. Much like the three branches of our State government serve to balance out power and authority, the Board similarly serves as a check of the Department's recommendations; both in normal times and in a time of pandemic.

The Board and Department have identified logical targets relative to expedited release options in light of this current COVID-19 reality. The Board is working in a systematic fashion to review persons for potential release that meet the Board's concomitant goals of promoting release in a manner that honors the rehabilitation of a given person in the system while simultaneously attempting to ensure, as best we can, the safety of the community as a whole.

The Board of Parole, the Administrative Law Judges, and Board staff are giving deliberate and diligent attention to the best interests of offenders, victims, and the general public in this season of uncertainty. We are keeping our eyes keenly fixed on the liberties and rights of each and every Iowan as we do so.